

Serial No. 10/763,994

Amendment in Resp. to Off. Action of Feb. 16, 2006

UTILITY PATENT

B&D No. JK01244

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0012, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0012] A circular saw blade 110 extends through an aperture in the support 102 for cutting a workpiece. The saw blade 110 is mounted to an arbor for rotating the blade. The arbor may be mounted underneath the support such as directly to a side of the support opposite the workpiece support surface, connected to a base/cabinet, or the like as desired. Accordingly, various assemblies may be utilized for saw blade height adjustment, rotating the arbor, providing beveling capability (tilting of the saw blade with respect to the support surface), and the like. Preferably a removable throat plate 112 is included for supporting a workpiece adjacent the blade 110 while permitting access to the saw arbor to allow for blade changes such as for switching from a cutting blade to a dado blade, and the like. Additionally, the support 102 may include additional features such as a recessed slot 114 for receiving sliding miter gage ~~114~~ 116, a sliding panel table attachment, and the like.--

Please replace paragraph 0015, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0015] Referring to FIG. 1B, back splitter 124 may have at least one anti-kickback pawl 134. In addition, a side pressure splitter is included on the back splitter 124. In further embodiments, a side pressure splitter may be included on a riving knife, or other kerf intrusion devices in a similar manner. In the present case, the side pressure splitter is unitarily formed with the back splitter as a tab 126 extending generally from a plane encompassing the back splitter 124. For example, a tab 426 may be cut into the backsplitter and bet to extend outwards from the general plane of the splitter, as indicated in FIG. 4. In further embodiments, a side pressure splitter may

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be connected generally along a side to the kerf intrusion device such as along an edge proximal to the saw blade such that a workpiece smoothly engages with the side pressure splitter. Preferably, the side pressure splitter is disposed adjacent the workpiece support surface 106 such that the side pressure splitter is at least partially positioned in the kerf for the expected range of workpiece thicknesses expected. In further instances, a side pressure splitter may be connected via a mechanical connection such as a key/keyhole configuration, connected via a fastener such as a rivet 332, a screw, or the like. For example, a side pressure splitter may be formed as a bowed strip (configured to act as a leaf spring) secured on a first and second end via rivets. Additionally, a side pressure splitter may be generally configured for easy removal, allow a user to switch the side pressure splitter to the opposite side of the main splitter should the fence be positioned on the opposite side of the blade.--

Please replace paragraph 0016, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0016] With reference to FIGS. 3 and 4, where like numerals refer to like parts, in an additional aspect, a side pressure splitter 326 is formed on a splitter 324 with a toothed or angled trailing edge 330 so as to minimize or prevent a workpiece from traveling backwards or towards the saw blade such as if the workpiece were to bind or closing downstream gap 328. Alternatively, or in conjunction, a friction coating may be included on the trailing edge so as to prevent the workpiece from traveling backwards toward the blade. Furthermore, an anti-kickback device may be configured so as to engage a workpiece in conjunction with the side pressure splitter. For example, a pivoting anti-kickback pawl 434 is configured to engage a workpiece biased by the

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tab 426. Additionally, the anti-kickback pawl may be configured to engage if the workpiece should move away from the support surface such as if the workpiece begins to "lift-up".--

Please replace paragraph 0017, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0017] Referring now to FIGS. 1A and 1B, a blade guard 138 may be included on the table saw 100. For example a pivoting blade guard 138 may be mounted to the back splitter 124. Suitable guards may be coupled via various linkages to a kerf intrusion device or may extend as an over arm guard coupled remotely to the saw support or the like.--

Please replace paragraph 0018, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--[0018] With reference to FIGS. 2 and ~~5~~, where like numerals refer to like parts, preferably, a side pressure splitter, included on a kerf intrusion device 224, such as a tab side pressure splitter 5226 is orientated toward an alignment fence 5118 in order to generally force or direct the portion of the workpiece 108 between the saw blade 5110 and the fence 5118 into contact with the fence. Preferably, the side pressure splitter directs the workpiece substantially perpendicular to the saw in order for the workpiece to follow a substantially parallel path to the saw blade. For example, the tab 5226 may generally bias or exert a spring force on the workpiece 5108 to insure contact between the workpiece 5108 and the fence 5118 so as to promote an accurate, even cut. Further, the side pressure splitter may act or tend to resist the workpiece from angling away from a fence. Thus, a table saw employing the system of the present invention may tend to, at least partially, resist an angling of the workpiece away from the alignment. If, for example, a bowed strip is utilized the strip may be connected on the side of a kerf intrusion device directed towards

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the fence. In the previous example, the bowed strip may be configured to allow for a range of force to be applied. For instance, a slot may allow for the strip side splitter to extend/retract towards a back splitter as the workpiece initially contacts the side pressure splitter. Further, at the end of the slot the strip may be resiliently positioned against a rivet or the like such that the strip is forced to bow towards the kerf intrusion device, thereby defining the maximum force which may be applied against the workpiece. With reference to FIG. 5, where like numerals refer to like parts, preferably, a side pressure splitter, included on a kerf intrusion device such as a tab side pressure splitter 526 is orientated toward an alignment fence 518 in order to generally force or direct the portion of the workpiece between the saw blade 510 and the fence 518 into contact with the fence. Preferably, the side pressure splitter directs the workpiece substantially perpendicular to the saw in order for the workpiece to follow a substantially parallel path to the saw blade. For example, the tab 526 may generally bias or exert a spring force on the workpiece 508 to insure contact between the workpiece 508 and the fence 518 so as to promote an accurate, even cut. Further, the side pressure splitter may act or tend to resist the workpiece from angling away from a fence. Thus, a table saw employing the system of the present invention may tend to, at least partially, resist an angling of the workpiece away from the alignment. If, for example, a bowed strip is utilized the strip may be connected on the side of a kerf intrusion device directed towards the fence. In the previous example, the bowed strip may be configured to allow for a range of force to be applied. For instance, a slot may allow for the strip side splitter to extend/retract towards a back splitter as the workpiece initially contacts the side pressure splitter. Further, at the end of the slot the strip may be resiliently positioned against a rivet or the like

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such that the strip is forced to bow towards the kerf intrusion device, thereby defining the
maximum force which may be applied against the workpiece.--